



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Basic Needs Working Group Meeting - 27th November 2023

Meeting Details

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| Date | 27. 11. 2023 |
| Time | 15.00 pm |
| Chair and Co-chair | Emmanuel Ottika, UNHCR – Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED, |
| Reporting | |
| Email | mdachacctr@unhcr.org - cuisana@unhcr.org – athina.nalmpanti@acted.org |

Agenda

1. RACs Consolidation Update
2. RRP 2024 Submissions & BNWG 2024 Workplan DRAFT
3. Training in RACs
4. Winter NFI Update
5. Achievements Reporting
6. Update from Partners
7. AoB

Information collection and relevant links

Participants



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



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| <i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i> | <i>Natasa Omerovic, IOM</i> | <i>Dustin Achgill, ACTED</i> |
| <i>Emmanuel Ottika, UNHCR</i> | <i>Svetlana Cires, CRS</i> | <i>Michel Gerges, WVI</i> |
| <i>Natalia Stelea, UNHCR</i> | <i>Harcenco Timur, Caritas</i> | <i>Mihai Rotaru, MLSP Implementation Unit</i> |
| <i>Teodor Vicol, MLSP</i> | <i>Silvestru Ecaterina, MLSP Implementation Unit</i> | <i>Alina Alexei, WFP</i> |
| <i>Athina Nalmpanti Acted</i> | <i>Audrey Pereira, Acted</i> | <i>Grigore Guzun, WFP</i> |
| <i>Ryusuke Kugai, Peace Winds</i> | <i>Stefan PRISACARU, Acted</i> | <i>Mihaela Lavrov, Peace Winds</i> |
| <i>Gabriela Georgial, CRS</i> | <i>Marte Ebrahim, IOM</i> | <i>Svetlana Cires, CRS</i> |
| <i>Veronica Stetco, CDA</i> | <i>Pierre Luigi, BSF</i> | <i>Marin Ala, Roma coalition</i> |
| | | <i>Cutie Evghenii, DRC</i> |

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

| Agenda | Discussion | Agreements/ Actions |
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| <p>Agenda point 1</p> <p>RACs Consolidation Update</p> | <p>UNHCR welcomed participants and thanked them for their participation and presented the agenda.</p> <p>UNHCR: gave a brief overview of the closure process for the RACs Consolidation Strategy.</p> <p>The consolidation strategy is ongoing with minimal changes since last meeting. Eight centers out of eleven from groups A, B, and C have been closed. Two RACs, Anenii Noi and Nisporeni, are still operational. Beneficiaries are prepared for closure, exploring options like rental assistance, relocation, or returning home. MLSP is revising the strategy, as soon as the revision is finalized, the MFT visits of the groups D and E will proceed. Data is still being collected by from the two centers Zaria and Dumbrava.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 centers have been closed. • two centers are in the process of closure • the center in Comrat will remain open • 52 people have been relocated in other centers • 72 enrolled to the rental assistance program • 96 people from the centers Zarea and Dumbrava, <p>After collecting the data from partners, the BNWG will present the update on the final option taken by refugees in the relocation process</p> | |



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| <p>Agenda point 2</p> <p>RRP 2024 Submissions & BNWG 2024 Workplan DRAFT</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81 people are residing in the two open RACs from the group A, B and C. <p>MLSP confirms the data and mentioned the difficulties that may arise with the cold season setting in, but the consolidation strategy will continue once the revision is finalized.</p> <p>IOM raised a concern about the Carpineni center where Gaza refugees are accommodated, mentioning a non-functioning heating system. UNHCR acknowledges the issue, confirming the heating system was recently repaired. An assessment has been conducted by ACTED, and all concerns such as repairs to electrical outlets, the WASH facility, and other identified issues have been addressed.</p> <p>Update on the current status of the RRP submission and share proposed plans for the next year:</p> <p>Inter-agency requested partners to submit plans for 2024. The BNWG has compiled submissions into a simple table for an overview. See below some of the sections that were divided for better coordination with the partners and to plan bilateral discussions to ensure de-duplication.</p> <p>Activity 1. Assessments: Four partners (IMPACT Initiatives, IOM, NRC, and UNHCR) have submitted proposals for eight different assessments for 2024. These assessments will cover various areas, including potential assessments around MSNA, usually supported by the REACH Initiative.</p> <p>Activity 2. Capacity Building for Basic Needs: Eight different partners will conduct various capacity-building activities (ACF, ACTED, Church World Service, Help Age, Helvetas, IOM, NRC, UNHCR, with about 1,430 different activities for capacity building.</p> <p>Activity 3. Transportation: Two partners (ACTED and IOM) have submitted proposals to support refugee transportation needs, both incoming to Moldova and onward to neighboring countries.</p> <p>Activity 4. Information Sharing and Awareness Raising: Six partners will undertake activities to meet the needs of about 15,000 refugees and 4,300 host community members.</p> <p>Activity 5. Infrastructure Improvement: Eleven partners will focus on community infrastructure, targeting 368 different types of infrastructure that benefit refugees from RACs and the host community, aiding in integration.</p> <p>Activity 6. Provision of Shelter and Housing Assistance: Twelve partners (ACTED, ADRA, AO ODFC, AO SOS Autism, CRS, Genderdoc, HelpAge, IFRC & ICRC, IOM, NRC, PIN, UNHCR) will address the needs of 7,300</p> | |
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| <p>Agenda point 3 Training in RACs</p> | <p>refugees and 1,000 vulnerable host community, with about 1,200 beneficiaries benefiting from shelter and housing assistance.</p> <p>Food and WASH: Eighteen partners (ACF, ACTED, Carritas Moldova, CERi Moldova, CCR, Church World Service, Dina, Dorcas, FCMIMI, Fundatia “Don Bosco”, HelpAge, IFRC&ICRC, IVC Moldova, Motivation, ROMNI, Speranta 87, WFP, WVI) will respond to the needs of 97,000 refugees and 32,000 host community members, addressing Food and WASH requirements.</p> <p>WASH: Eleven partners (ACF, AO Societatea Invalizilor din RM, Caritas Moldova, CERi Moldova, CCR, DRC, Helvetas, IOM, Motivation, Speranta 87, UNICEF) will address the needs of 63,000 refugees and 40,000 host communities.</p> <p>According to the submissions for activities in 2024 more partners are involved in housing repairs the proposal is to create a technical groups to coordinate and have guidelines for the implementation of partners’ projects.</p> <p>The Work Plan for 2024 will be shared for partners feedback, considering the inputs received during the 2024 RRP consultation workshop and incorporating the comments received from partners. Partners are encouraged to revise the document, provide input, or express concerns regarding the proposed work plan.</p> <p>The focus is on collaboration, coordination, and gathering input to ensure a comprehensive and well-aligned plan for the upcoming year.</p> <p>NRC mentioned it doesn’t see the organization listed under the WASH activity. To be revised.</p> <p>A pilot training is being developed to enhance the capacity of managers and staff working in refugee accommodation centers. This collaborative effort is conducted jointly with different partners of the BN WG, IOM, DRC, ACTED, UNHCR.</p> <p>Objective of the training: Strengthening the capacity of RAC managers and social workers. Focusing on site management concepts, protection, and key aspects of RAC operations. The main objective of the training is to harmonize the procedures across all RACs for consistency and adherence to humanitarian standards. This</p> | |
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| | <p>training initiative aims to empower staff in providing more coordinated assistance, ultimately contributing to the effectiveness and consistency of operations across refugee accommodation centers.</p> <p>The Pilot Training will start with the RACs in Chisinau area, targeting 26 participants, managers and social workers. The training will be in English with simultaneously translated into Romanian and is supported and coordinated with MLSP.</p> <p>A 3-day program with one module per day, totaling around 6 hours daily, the curriculum is tailored to Moldova context, with the following modules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Site Management, delivered by DRC. 2. Coordination and Monitoring of Service Provision will be delivered by DRC. 3. Main Operational Procedures delivered jointly by IOM and ACTED. <p>Next year the training will be extended to all RACs across Moldova. The proposed dates for the training are December 18-20.</p> <p>This training package is the first step developed as a response to the request from MLSP to the BNWG made several months ago. The primary goal is to provide the Ministry with comprehensive training materials, that will enable them to sustain ongoing capacity-building efforts, benefiting both RAC managers and social workers.</p> <p>BNWG will continue collaboration with the Ministry throughout the next year for the complete implementation of the training package, to enhance the capacities of RAC managers and social workers working in refugee accommodation centers.</p> <p>WFP is ready to engage in the trainings planned for next year.</p> <p>IOM emphasized that while encouraging everyone's participation, it's crucial to acknowledge that RAC managers lack in-depth knowledge of technical standards. Training will cover five topics, including extensive ones like operational procedures in RAC protection. Expectations should be realistic, considering the limited time to acquire detailed knowledge of various sectors. The goal is not to overwhelm managers but to familiarize them with minimum standards.</p> | <p>To be revised why NRC is not listed under the WASH activity.</p> |
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| <p>Agenda point 4</p> <p>Winter NFI Update</p> | <p>Interagency started the winterization process in May 2023 to address the needs of refugees and local vulnerable population. The intervention is based on the survey result, current needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winterization rapid Needs assessment, Vulnerability assessment (MSNA) REACH, Rapid Socio-economic profiling – UNHCR, Protection monitoring UNHCR, Winter evaluation assessment (ACTED, WVI, IFR, Red Cross Moldova, PIN, Intersos) • Key findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 96% prefer cash and/or vouchers - 99% of HH were able to find the items or services they needed - 64% HH reported increase of prices. <p>12 partners reported on the Winter Activity platform plans to distribute NFIs countrywide. The target is 12,207 refugees, 28, 488 local vulnerable Moldovans.</p> <p>Between October 2023- February 2024: 18, 705 NFI kits and vouchers will be distributed to individuals and 8,830 to HH.</p> <p>Partners: AAH, CCR, CWS/Diaconia, DRC, IBCRDF, IOM, Keystone, NRC, PIN, UNPF, WVI, Parteneriate pentru fiecare copil.</p> <p>Different partners will distribute cash, support for heating solid fuel, hygiene kits, clothes, vouchers, HH kits.</p> <p>For a better coordination of distributing the NFIs is recommended that partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a common Winterization platform - The distribution is coordinated to avoid duplications - To reserve an emergency quantity of items for unexpected arrivals - Harmonization of the NFI package to avoid tensions among the population - Strengthening the coordination for the NFI distribution with local actors, Local Public Authorities, Local CSOs - Consider enhancing the NFI distribution response at BCPs especially in the North. - PDM for feedback from the assisted people | |
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| <p>Agenda point 5 Achievements Reporting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roma mediator will provide support in identifying the vulnerable groups. <p>IOM shares the results of the needs collected from people visiting the community centers in Chisinau, Comrat, Cahul and Balti. One of the main need remains food, 25% of people are interested in NFI, majority from Chisinau. 679 visits during November.</p> <p>There is interest from local representatives for firewood, the Government is also distributing firewood and is important to have a good coordination of this activity.</p> <p>MLSP – requests that all support and assistance provided in RACs to be coordinated. The people that are residing in centers their needs are covered. The refugees collect the kits provided as support, and centers are turned into warehouse. The government has a program to assist the vulnerable population during the cold season, providing compensation for utilities, people to register on the “compensatii.gov.md”. The support in rural areas should be coordinated to avoid duplication.</p> <p>The deputy coordinator (ACTED) will share an Excel document outlining the distribution needs across the country. The firewood needs and partners capacity to be shared with MLSP.</p> <p>The data collection tool is ActivityInfo, which feeds our operational data portal. The portal displays achievements across sectors, a detailed view of basic needs, you can select the sector on the first page. For ActivityInfo, standard templates are used for data collection. A data collection on achievements has been initiated, in the rental assistance program, using Excel. The data is populated by three active partners, helps showcase our accomplishments: rental assistance, community infrastructure an ongoing project and RACs. By the end of the year the information will be compiled for a comprehensive overview.</p> <p>Call for partners to fill in the Activityinfo platform the achievements, a reminder will be sent by Inter Agency.</p> <p>Also, partners are encouraged to contribute with detailed information to prepare a comprehensive report all the information on the infrastructure improvements carried out in RACs, community infrastructure, all projects developed under BNWG. This report will not only serve as internal documentation but will also be shared with all partners and provided to the MLSP for their records. BNWG coordinators will make a summary of achievements and compile all data from 2023 partners’ implementation into factsheets.</p> | |
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| <p>Rental Assistance program data presentation</p> | <p>IOM– Rental assistance program 2023 578 HHs, 1862 individuals were supported. 246 HHs, 779 individuals are currently assisted. From the RRP 2023, 39% have been achieved. The higher number of populations was targeted in Chisinau as 181 HHs, followed by Balti and UTA Gagauzia. Challenges: high demand for rental assistance and lack of rental offers on the market, and hesitance to enroll in the program ACTED: 33HH - 112 individuals relocated from RACs. Most of the individuals are located in Chisinau and central area, followed by Gagauzia and other locations. 89% individuals plan to stay at the same address after the project ends 87% confirmed improvement in financial stability, Individuals are supported with moving allowance, first aid kit, cash for utilities average rental cost – 262 euro. CRS: Project started November 2022 Target 700 HH Achieved 937 HH Average support 2158 USD, not the full amount is covered for rent. Location covered 17 Raions in RM</p> | |
| <p>Agenda point 6 Update from Partners</p> | <p>WVI – plan rehabilitation in 19 RACs until the end of 2023, will continue to distribute hygienic items to the RAC management. 325 education and winterization kits for orphan children in coordination with the MLSP. 455 winterization kits for women and kids – coordinated with NRC to avoid duplications.</p> <p>CRS - by the end January to finalize new amounts within the cash working group and align with the plans for cash for rent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The accommodation program will start in mid to late January. • Winterization cash was distributed in September, with additional ad hoc distributions in October. • Small repairs to households have been completed. • Requested for beds in some RACs, has been provided, the project ends in December. | |



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| | <p>ACTED - already reached the cash for rent target for 2023, and a new target for 2024 will be shared in January. Coordination at the cash for rent sub-task force level is underway to determine the timeline for opening registrations. Once finalized, this information will be shared with partners to refer if needed.</p> <p>DRC - did some interventions in RAC 207, installed 12 units of AC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changed water filters in some rocks and we're • planning to do some intervention in in Telenesti RAC, Carpineni • WASH intervention at the Asylum center of the IGM, works were coordinated with WASH SWG • hygiene distribution for collective hygiene distributed at RAC 1092 • distribution of Winterization kits in the Asylum center an distribution of hygiene kits • Jointly with UNICEF rehabilitation of RACs, • Assessment of hygiene needs in RACs was concluded; the results will be shared with partners to address these needs. <p>IOM – distribution of firewood is shared activity with DRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration for Rental assistance until de end of December, will continue the activity next year. • Distributed of winter clothes and hygienic kits for the Gaza refugees • WASH rehabilitation in RACs coordinated with WASH SWG is ongoing, almost completed. • Housing eco system assessment is almost finalized. <p>WFP – continue support with food provision three times per day in the accredited centers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of snacks at Palanca and Otaci BCP is ongoing. <p>ACTED – continue with the infrastructure works with Palanca kindergarten</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stefan Voda project is ongoing, • Maintenance in the RACs is ongoing, • WASH and accessibility is ongoing, • Peaceful coexistence projects are ongoing, • Transportation is ongoing of the new arrivals and other needs, • Supporting with NFI distribution of different partners. | <p>UNHCR will compile all data from Rental assistance, into one factsheet.</p> |
| Next meeting | 29th of January | |